

Peabody Award and the 1997 American Broadcast Pioneer Award, which is presented to those who have contributed in a legendary fashion to the broadcast industry.

Mr. Speaker, public broadcasting has benefited substantially from Richard Carlson's stalwart and thoughtful leadership. His presence will be greatly missed. I know my colleagues will join with me in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

#### THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1997

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today H.R. 1636, the Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997. This bipartisan legislation—which has over ninety original cosponsors—builds on longstanding state and federal public disclosure programs. If enacted, this legislation will guarantee the public's right to know about the toxic chemicals in their homes and communities, and give parents the information they need to protect their children from toxic chemical hazards. H.R. 1636 means parents will have the tools to be smart consumers, whether they are buying household products or moving to new neighborhoods.

Because children have greater sensitivities to contaminants in our food and air, they are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards. And when they crawl on the floor or play in the dirt, they are exposed to environmental contaminants in ways that adults seldom are.

The Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act is supported by the Children's Health Environmental Coalition, the Alliance To End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the International Association of Firefighters, the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the Environmental Information Center, the Sierra Club, the Sierra Club Legal Defense, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, Citizen Action, the Environmental Working Group, OMB Watch, Friends of the Earth, and Public Citizen.

I want to summarize a few of the legislation's most important provisions.

The Federal Hazardous Substances Act [FHSA], administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission [CPSC], addresses toxic threats and safety hazards by banning hazardous children's products and requiring warning labels on hazardous adult products. However, while CPSC can usually tell whether a toy, a crib, or other consumer product presents a safety hazard, CPSC often has little way of knowing whether toxic ingredients exist in a given household product.

The Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997 will improve the Federal Hazardous Substances Act by

drawing from the successes of California's "Prop 65" law. Over the past ten years, Prop 65's public disclosure requirements have resulted in manufacturers removing lead from dishes and faucets, carcinogens from diaper pail deodorizers and shoe polish, and reproductive toxins from nail polish. And for every such example we know about, dozens of other businesses are quietly finding ways to make their products safer.

Under the proposal we are introducing today, manufacturers and importers of consumer products with toxic ingredients will publicly disclose the presence of the toxic ingredients to the CPSC without any new labeling requirements. In addition, our proposal will allow citizen enforcement of our consumer product safety laws. The experience with Prop 65 in California is that few such suits are ever brought. While I expect few lawsuits will similarly result from this legislation, citizen suits create a real incentive for businesses to voluntarily eliminate the toxic ingredients in the products they sell.

The act will also build on a second successful Federal program, the Toxics Release Inventory. The Toxics Release Inventory was created in 1986 in the wake of the toxic chemical disasters in Bhopal, India, and Institute, WV and was aimed at giving people more information about the toxic chemicals routinely released into their communities. The law's done that, and it's also resulted in a 40 percent reduction in the release of toxic chemicals.

The Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997 will expand the Toxics Release Inventory to disclose the amount of toxic chemicals shipped in and out of a facility, stored on-site, and otherwise used.

This will create incentives to prevent the accidents that accompany such use. According to reports by the National Environmental Law Center and the state Public Interest Research Groups, from 1993 to 1995, 23,000 accident reports involving toxic chemicals were reported nationwide—an average of 21 each day. Worse still, 1 out of 20 of those accidents resulted in immediate injury, evacuation or death. The chemical plant fire last week in Arkansas, in which three firefighters died, was but one recent tragic example. These statistics are only the tip of the iceberg, since they neither account for under-reporting of accidents nor the chronic health effects due to the accidental releases. Under the proposal, businesses will also disclose their employees' exposure to toxic chemicals, creating an incentive to reduce those exposures.

We have statutes regulating chemical transportation and management, and occupational exposure to toxic chemicals to set minimum safety standards. But public disclosure will create the incentive to go beyond the minimum.

In New Jersey, where public disclosure of toxic chemical use has been in place for 10 years, production-related wastes have been declining steadily since 1990, while staying steady for the nation as a whole. In Massachusetts, a survey of businesses required by State law to report their toxic chemical use shows that 60 percent decreased their use of toxic chemicals per unit of total production since 1990. In addition, 67 percent of busi-

nesses that reported implementing toxics use reduction said they actually saw direct cost savings and 66 percent reported improvements in worker health and safety.

The economic benefits of focusing on toxic chemical use were apparently anticipated by industry during the passage of the New Jersey and Massachusetts laws. The New Jersey Pollution Prevention Act was supported by industry and actually signed into law at two New Jersey chemical plants. The Massachusetts law passed both houses unanimously because industry, as well as environmentalists, supported the law.

In drafting this legislation, I have worked Mr. SAXTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ANDREWS to ensure that legitimate industry concerns were addressed. Under this act, for instance, business could withhold from public disclosure legitimate trade secrets regarding their toxic chemical use. Second, this proposal includes provisions to ensure that public disclosure is not unduly burdensome. The Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997 will require EPA to consolidate all Federal environmental reporting—including air, waste, and water reporting and the reporting required by this proposal—eliminating hours of business effort to find and interpret the applicable reporting requirements.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997 will give parents information they need to protect their children from toxic hazards, provide businesses an incentive to voluntarily reduce their use and waste of toxic chemicals, protect legitimate trade secrets, and reduce the administrative burdens associated with environmental reporting. It will be good for our health and good for our economy. I ask for the support of all Members in passing this important piece of legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SERVICES OF MACOMB

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 1997*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the Catholic Services of Macomb on the occasion of their 40th anniversary, and to His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, the keynote speaker at their anniversary dinner which took place on January 9, 1997.

Catholic Services of Macomb, a non-profit health and human service agency has touched so many individuals since its inception in December, 1957, when the Rev. Robert Monticello was commissioned by the Archdiocese of Detroit to open a Catholic social service agency in Macomb County.

The agency's mission and work provide family and individual counseling services, senior programs, and child welfare initiatives. Indeed, through the dedication of this humanitarian agency, Macomb County is a better place to live and work.

On this joyous occasion, I extend my very best wishes for continued success to the Catholic Services of Macomb as they go forward in their compassionate effort to service those in need.